

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF

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DIRNSA

USAFE

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7206 AB GRP ATHENAI APRT GREECE

CJUSMAGG ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 014079

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MARR, PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: HELLENIZATION MEASURES
AT HELLENIKON

REF: ATHENS 0462

1. IT IS OUR INTENTION TO PROPOSE THAT A SUBGROUP BE
ESTABLISHED BY THE PLENARY TO EXAMINE THE HELLENIZATION
ISSUE IN DETAIL DURING THE THIRD ROUND AND WE WOULD HOPE
TO AVOID COMPROMISING OUR POSITION IN THOSE TALKS BY MAKING
CONCESSIONS AT HELLENIKON WHICH AS EMBASSY HAS SURMISED, WILL
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HAVE A PRECEDENTIAL EFFECT ON ALL OF OUR FACILITIES IN GREECE.

2. WE VIEW ONGOING DIALOGUE BETWEEN US AND GREEK BASE COMMANDERS AS A VALUABLE CONDUIT FOR INSIGHTS INTO THE GREEK POSITION ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO HELLENIKON. HOWEVER, HELLENIZATION ISSUES IMPACT ON ALL OUR FACILITIES AND MUST BE RESOLVED IN THE CONTEXT OF FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS.

3. WE RECOGNIZE THAT A UNILATERAL GESTURE TO IMPLEMENT ONE OR MORE OF THE GREEK COMMANDER'S PROPOSALS MAY HAVE A SALUTORY EFFECT ON USAF-HAFRELATIONS AT HELLENIKON AND MAY HELP TO CREATE A POSITIVE CLIMATE FOR RESUMPTION OF HELLENIKON DISCUSSIONS AT ROUND THREE. THEREFORE, AT YOUR DISCRETION,

THE US BASE COMMANDER AT HELLENIKON IS AUTHORIZED TO REPLACE ENGLISH LANGUAGE SIGNS AT THE MAIN GATE WITH GREEK SIGNS AND TO FLY ONLY THE GREEK FLAG AT THE MAIN GATE, WITH THE US FLAG TO BE FLOWN ONLY AT THE US COMMANDER'S HEADQUARTERS. THE GREEK BASE COMMANDER AT HELLENIKON SHOULD ALSO BE ADVISED THAT HIS PROPOSALS ARE BEING THOROUGHLY EXAMINED BY WASHINGTON AND THAT WE WILL RESPOND TO HIS HELPFUL INITIATIVES IN THE CONTEXT OF ROUND THREE. (FYI. A CABLE OUTLINING OUR POSITION ON HELLENIZATION ISSUES IS NOW UNDER PREPARATION FOR USE DURING ROUND THREE. END FYI.)

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